

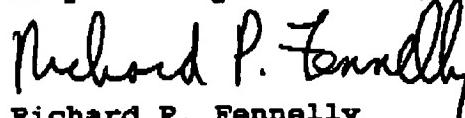
ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner has indicated that Claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 USC 112. As explained hereinabove, this rejection was erroneous. Claim 3 as filed is in proper form, and should therefore be allowed as is. The same applies to claims 4-11. For reasons given, claims 1 and 2 are allowable as well.

There appears to be clear error in the rendering of this Office Action by having the issues articulated by focus upon the wrong Claims. This appears to have caused delay in the most expeditious prosecution of the application. It is therefore requested that an appropriate patent term extension be granted to the applicants by not counting the Office Action of July 15, 2004 but by measuring the time for the Examiner's initial Action on the merits as of the date on which the next (clarifying) Office Action is rendered.

In view of the comments contained herein, it is requested that all Claims contained in the above-identified application be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,


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